

JULY 1980

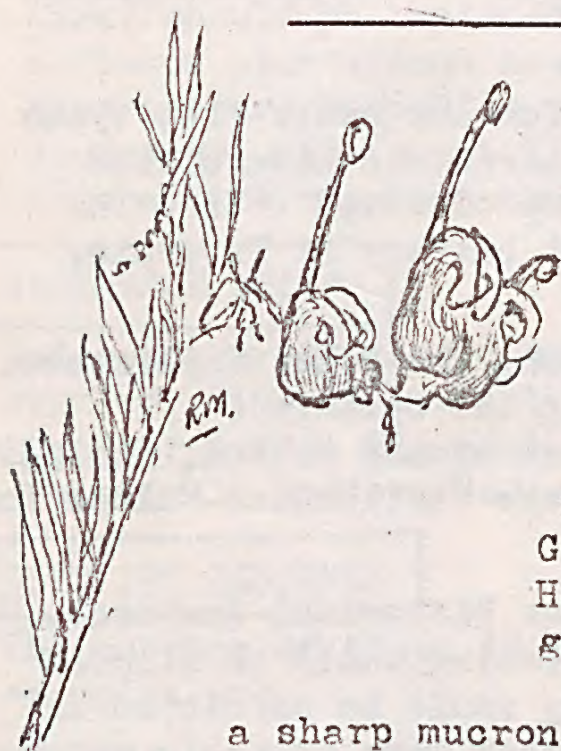
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CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST



BROWN
HAWK

President : Mr G. Sith Goldfields Nursery
 Muckleford Ph. 72 2734
Secretary : Mr S. Bruton 23 View St
 Castlemaine 72 3050
Treasurer: Mr L. Bransgrove 113 Lyttleton St C'mne
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Flowers of the Castlemaine District

GREVILLEA sp. (Hybrid Form)

by Rita Mills

flowering period - Autumn, Winter.

This Grevillea is known from just a few specimens around Harcourt, and I have one in my own garden.

It appears to be a natural hybrid, (mine is self-sown) between *G. rosmarinifolia* and *G. alpina*, both of which are found near Harcourt and both of which I have in my garden.

The leaves are longer than alpina, have a sharp mucron (point) all point upwards, are convex, with the back minutely hairy. The flowers are red and white and are terminal. The petals are smooth, with the stigma minutely hairy.

The club meets at the Castlemaine Education Centre, Mostyn Street, on the second Friday of each month, at 8 p.m.

Outings are held on the following Saturday or Sunday, as announced.

Visitors are welcome to attend either meetings or outings.

As a number of people have asked about contacting the club, the phone numbers of office-bearers have been shown above.

During business hours, one could ring the High School (72 1366) and ask to speak to a member of the club.

THE LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL REPORT FOR

THE NORTH CENTRAL STUDY AREA

The publication of "Proposed Recommendations for the North Central Study Area" by the Land Conservation Council means that the most important task in the history of our Club has begun.

The L.C.C. has considered submissions made after the publication of its report on the North Central Area, and has now published its recommendations. Interested individuals and groups are now able to comment on these, and the L.C.C. will consider the comments and make final recommendations. The final recommendations will be presented to Parliament for implementation or otherwise.

I believe that, for our area, the L.C.C. has made some excellent recommendations. If you agree, you should tell the L.C.C., and say why you agree. It is just as important to give support for good recommendations as to criticise unsatisfactory recommendations.

Closing date is Tuesday 26 August, 1980.

HISTORIC AREAS

This is an innovation, and seems to be ideal for our area. Two types are proposed:- "areas", which are relatively large and diversified areas, and "reserves", which are smaller and specialised areas. The only reserve in our district is the Government battery at Taradale. Historic areas include:-

Castlemaine Comprising Golden Point, Chewton, The Monk, Fryerstown, and Vaughan and Sailors Gully (and including the Springs).

Maldon This includes most of the public land around Maldon, including Mt Tarrengower, Muckleford Forest north of the Castlemaine-Maldon road, and Carmens Tunnel area.

The major purpose of these areas is to preserve historical features. Grazing may be permitted; and mining and fossicking would be allowed with suitable safeguards. Some timber getting would be permitted in some areas. (Before the mining, stands of timber were probably mature. Almost all of these were cut out by miners so that the landscape became one dominated by coppice shoots, and the present trees are mostly regrowth. If timber getting is not permitted, the goldfields landscape will gradually lose its present character.

Preservation of fauna and flora is listed at the end; it would be better as a major management aim.)

The Castlemaine Historic Area would be managed by the National Parks Service and the Maldon Historic area by Dept. of Crown Lands and Survey.

PARKS

State Parks are recommended for Kooyoora (west of Inglewood), Whroo, Whipstick, Kamarooka (Whipstick north) and Kara Kara (south of Stuart Mill.) The nearest to Castlemaine is

Fryers Ridge State Park. Area is 2970 ha to join with 1400 ha proposed from the Melbourne Study area. This is in line with this Club's recommendation. Historic features should be preserved; mining could be permitted and some timber getting allowed.

(The northern boundary is approximately the line from Malmsbury to Fryerstown. This could well be too far south, or, alternatively the northern part of this block could become a Hardwood Forest, and so act as a buffer zone.)

Regional Parks are proposed for Paddy's Range (just south of Maryborough, and One Tree Hill, just south of Bendigo on the Sutton Grange Road. The Regional Park closest to us is

Mt Alexander Regional Park Softwood plantations (near the Koala Park) should be replaced by local plants after milling, but the softwood plantations near the base would remain. The hilltop quarries are unsightly and the stockpiles of waste rock are dangerous; the feasibility of relocating the quarries at the base of the mountain should be determined.

REFERENCE AREAS

Reference areas should remain undisturbed, without logging, grazing, mineral extraction etc. The nearest to Castlemaine is Sandhurst near Big Hill, on the Calder Highway. The number of relatively undisturbed areas in goldfields areas is restricted.

WILDLIFE RESERVES

The purpose of these is mainly for wildlife preservation. Local examples are

Clunes Swamp

Bells Swamp No reference is made to the part of Bells Swamp in private property; the Club recommended that this be purchased and added to the public land.

Frogmore Swamp This is between Bells Swamp and Maryborough. (I am not familiar with it; perhaps it could be the basis of a Club excursion.)

EDUCATION AREAS

100 ha at Faraday is suggested as an education area.

HARDWOOD PRODUCTION

These are really multipurpose areas, being used for timber, honey, firewood, gravel extraction, wildlife and plant preservation, grazing etc. (Some of these would appear to be in conflict; however the L.C.C. makes a number of recommendations about how some of these should be controlled.) Local examples include

Castlemaine (Wattle Flat)

Muckleford Forest (South of Maldon-Castlemaine road)

There are 29 hardwood areas named in the report.

RIVER AND STREAM FRONTAGES

Our submission to the L.C.C. included a section on stream frontages, and river improvement. The L.C.C. comments are too long to reprint here. In the study area there are few stream reserves, and those in this district are picnic-type reserves (e.g. along Campbells Creek on the Guildford Rd, and at Taradale etc).

ROADSIDE RESERVES

The L.C.C. proposes that there should be a 24 ha Roadside Park on the Calder Highway at Ravenswood. Its general recommendations about preservation of roadside vegetation, historical features and geological features are to be commended.

SOFTWOOD PLANTATIONS

Only three softwood areas are listed for the study area. "The climate and the soils of the area are not suited to extensive planting of public land for softwood production." Areas listed are

Mt Beckworth 50 ha to south of Mt Beckworth

Mt Alexander 548 ha

Castlemaine 225 ha in Castlemaine North area. However, a substantial amount of uncommitted land is in this vicinity.

BUSHLAND RESERVES

These are generally small areas carrying remnants of native vegetation. There are many small parcels in the district. Although small, they play an important role in maintaining the distinctive Australian character to the landscape, and provide diversity of scenery. Some local examples are

Taradale 225 ha of fine wildflower bush

Chewton 20 ha near the bushland settlement

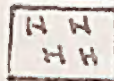
Muckleford 80 ha next to the railway, and another of 19 ha.

Walmer, Maldon A number of small areas

Campbells Creek One small area.



Pines



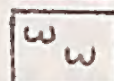
Hardwood



Parks



Reference Area



Water reserve



Historic area



Uncommitted



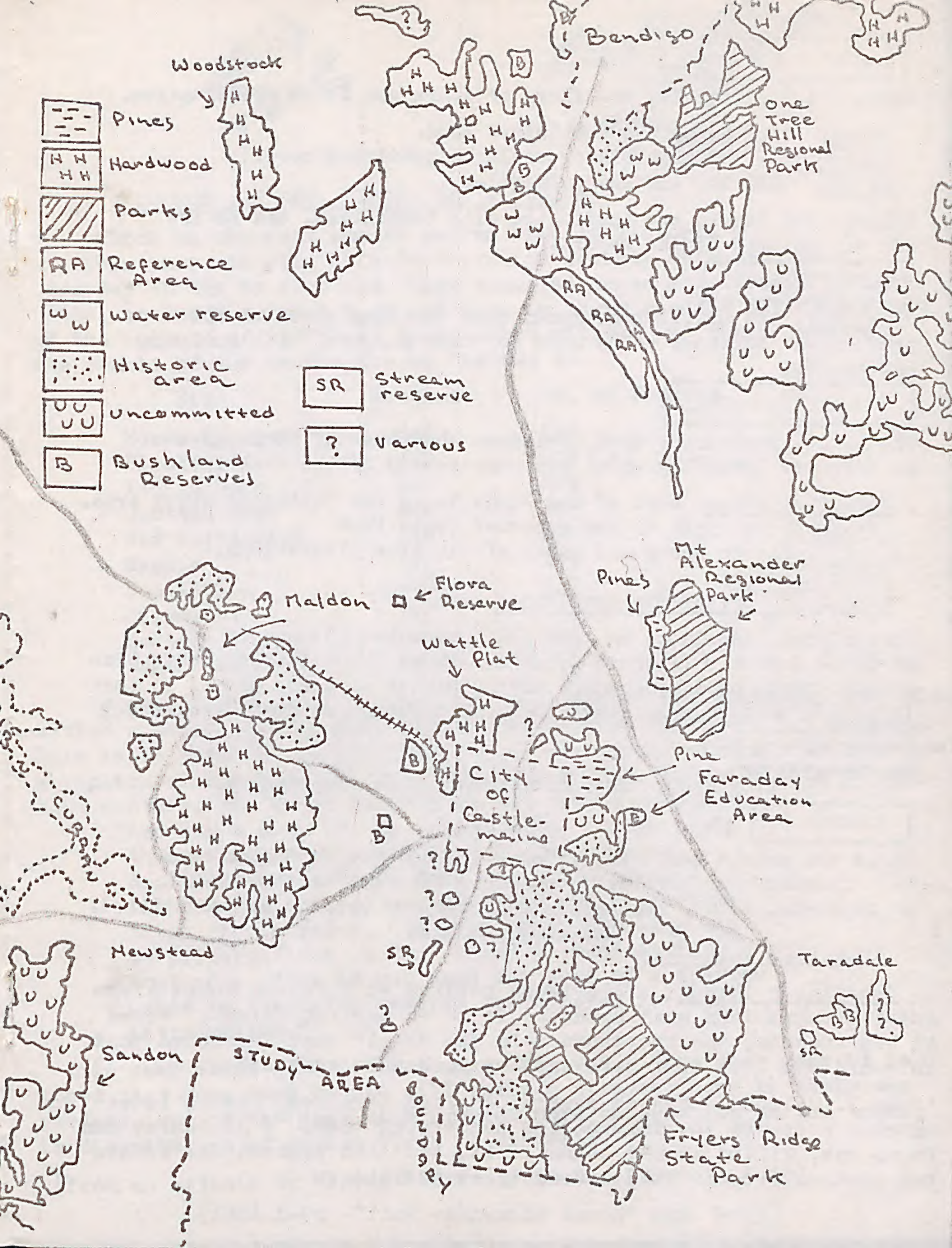
Bushland Reserves



Stream reserve



Various



FLORA RESERVES

These are specifically for flora or flora and fauna preservation.

Walmer 12.8 ha on the Muckleford Road.

Tarnagulla 1885 ha. Mining could be permitted here.

Mt Ida 1325 ha, including Dargile.

Kalimna and Kaweka are inside the city boundaries, and so are are not covered by the report.

EUCALYPTUS OIL

Generally, the L.C.C. recommends that the land given to oil production continue to be used for this purpose, with suitable safeguards.

UNCOMMITTED AREAS

The L.C.C. recommends that decisions about use of these areas be deferred (possibly until the next survey of the district).

Porcupine Ridge Most of the Ridge is in the Melbourne Study area.

Fryers Ridge north of the proposed State Park

Castlemaine to north and south of the pine plantations.

Sandon Forest

Mandurang Forest/Pilchers Bridge area

Uncommitted land is to be withheld from sale and managed as reserved forest. (If these areas remain as "uncommitted", this Club should embark on a program of investigation of these areas, so that informed advice can be given when their future is next discussed.)

AGRICULTURE

Only a few tiny areas are recommended for sale/agriculture.

VARIOUS

These are mainly small areas; some are cleared, and some have been reserved for particular purposes that may not be still appropriate. L.C.C. recommends that they be treated as uncommitted.

REMINISCE WITH RAY

E. Perkins.

Shooting a Thrush Sportsmen potting at birds on Mount Alexander brought down what appeared to be an English Thrush. Vexed at his success, the sportsman told the "Mail" that "he hoped that he would not have to report another such unlucky shot".

Mr E. Wilson liberated several English thrushes, and he later offered a reward for information concerning them. A Sandhurst man found one, killed it and beheaded it, and then claimed the reward but whether from Mr Wilson or not, is not clear.

(from the "Mount Alexander Mail" 29-4-1861)



COMMON GARDEN BIRDS OF VICTORIA

Which is the most common garden bird in Victoria ?

This year the Wild Life Preservation Society of Australia decided to try to find out. They appealed to as many people as were able, to spend between 7 am and 8 am in their gardens making a count of the numbers of different birds which visited and their numbers. The result of the census was as follows :-

Bird	Numbers	No. of Gardens
House Sparrow	3549	239
Blackbird	1060	207
Indian Myna	987	169
Spotted Dove	444	162
Red Wattlebird	515	152
Magpie	490	145
Starling	1290	130
Silvereye	588	94
Mudlark	202	84
Song Thrush	157	72

It may be seen that of the ten most common bird visitors, the only native species are the Red Wattlebird, Magpie, Silvereye and Mudlark. This is in part due to the attempts of the early colonists to recreate a replica of the homeland they had left behind. In the middle of the last century, the great naturalist John Gould warned :

"And now a word to the Australians, particularly those who are interesting themselves about acclimatizing animals from other countries - wishing for things they have not and neglecting those they possess. At what cross purposes are we planning both in Europe and Australia; in England a price is put upon the head of a sparrow while in Australia rewards are offered for its introduction."

This year about 4000 replies were received. Next year year it is hoped that many more people will spend a pleasant hour in their own gardens, and at the same time provide more information on the trends in distribution of garden birds in Victoria.

(from an article by Vincent Sergenty in the "Age" 31-5-80)

CASTLEMAINE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB PROGRAM

Meetings

July 11: Speaker : Col Burt
Subject : Birds

Friday Aug 8

Film night: A variety
of nature films will be
shown.

September 12.

To be confirmed: Keep watching
this space for further
details

October 10

Mr T. Harrap of Ballarat C.A.E
will speak on the loss of
rain forest, red cedar and birds.

W.V.F.N.C.A. Camp-out 15,16,17 August 1980

At Kulki Kulki Camp, 22 miles north of Swan Hill on Murray Valley
Highway.

Accommodation: Dormitory type for 60 people, at \$1 per night.

Overnight caravans, \$ 10 per night. Grand Hotel, Nyah West.

R.S.V.P. 31st July.

Outings

Saturday, July 12.

Guildford Plateau and Sailors Falls.
Depart Education Centre, Mostyn St
at 1.30.

Saturday Aug.9

A walk through the North end of
Kalimna

September A walk through the Chewton
area. To be confirmed.

October A $\frac{1}{2}$ day walk along the
railway line near Maldon.

September: For the annual show-day
holiday hike, a route from Newstead
to Muckleford has been suggested.

RAY'S REMINISCENCES

KANGAROO HUNTING

It is computed that 100 kangaroos consume as large an amount of
produce as 200 sheep. We know of a station in the immediate neigh-
borhood of Portland on which it is supposed that not fewer than 100
are at any time present, and that they are to be seen sometimes in
droves of 70 and 80. It is also admitted that where kangaroos are
numerous, their presence operates injuriously with reference to
sheep. The destruction of the obnoxious marauders must therefore
have in it some utility and merit.

(from the "Mt Alexander Mail" 20-1-1860)

from Ray Bradfield

OBSERVATIONS FOR THE MONTH

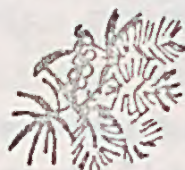
JULY



LAMBING
TIME



MAGPIES COLLECTING
NESTING SHELTER



STAY
CLEAR
OF
PRICKLY
MALLEES



FLAME FUNGUS



SEE
THE
HELMET
ORCHIDS